

**POST-ADOPTION  
SUPPORT SERVICES**

**P.A.S.S.P.O.R.T.  
PROGRAM**

*Keeping Families Together*

**Post-Adoption Support Services  
Partnership Operating to Sustain  
Relations and Family Ties**

ACS Office of Adoption Services  
Post-Adoption Services Program  
150 William Street, 4th Floor  
New York, New York 10038

**How can I obtain information on support groups in my community or in close proximity?**

For information on support groups, interested parents and family members should call or visit the PASSPORT program office to inquire about the date, time and location of meetings and/or community support networks in their neighborhood.

**Will I have the opportunity to let you or others know if I was satisfied/not satisfied with the services?**

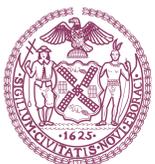
When you receive information or services from our staff or from another service provider/referral, you will be given an opportunity to complete a Client Satisfaction Survey (CSS). All comments concerning the services or staff's conduct should be documented on the survey. All information on the survey is confidential. Completing the survey will give us the opportunity to serve you better. Therefore, your comments are very important to us. The Administration for Children's Services is committed to supporting you and your family every step of the way during and after the adoption process.

**If you are interested in knowing more about our program and services contact our office.**

*Iris Kaplan, Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Antoinette Nelson, Director  
ACS Office of Adoption Services*

**P.A.S.S.P.O.R.T. 1-212-676-7379  
Adoption Services 1-212-676-7354**

**We will be happy to assist you  
and your family.**



Michael R. Bloomberg  
*Mayor*

William C. Bell  
*Commissioner*

# Q&A

# P.A.S.S.P.O.R.T. Program

*Dear Parent(s)*

*The decision to expand your family through adoption can be a fulfilling and rewarding experience. It takes a special family to open their hearts to our children and to be able and willing to meet their many needs. Therefore, it is important for us to be there when you need additional support services. The PASSPORT staff is able to provide you and your family with services that are tailored to meet your family's needs. We offer a range of services to support you, the child, and your family through and after the adoption process. Staff is also available to give you the opportunity to successfully work through family problems that may have recently surfaced, and to assist you in the future if necessary. Our goal is to ensure that you and your family have access to the support services that you need, when you need them, and to help keep your family together.*

*Sincerely,*

*Iris Kaplan, Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Antoinette Nelson, Director  
ACS Office of Adoption Services*

## **Why Would I Need Post-Adoption Services?**

All families use a variety of support services to sustain themselves. Post-Adoption services helps adoptive family members understand how adoption affects family relationships, and to learn strategies and techniques to help manage family circumstances or crisis. Support services helps brothers and sisters, adult adoptees, and extended family members manage role transitions, family conflicts, grief, loss, separation and identity issues. Professional staff also counsels parents on how to cope with the physical and emotional stresses of parenting teens and special needs children. These services are provided at little or no cost to you.

## **How can the agency assist me, my family and/or my adopted child?**

The needs of children change as they develop, and may require additional support services and resources. The PASSPORT program staff will help you obtain the services that you may need in your community, when the need arises. The staff has a lot of experience working with adoptive parents and children, and specifically kinship families. The staff understands the need to have services that are convenient and accessible to you, and have established working partnerships and associations in your community to service you better.

## **What Services are offered?**

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES:**

- **Support Groups**  
Community and neighborhood based support groups are available for adoptive parents, teens, birth parents and adult adoptees.

### **FAMILY EDUCATION & ADVOCACY**

- **Parent/Child Education Services**  
Provides adoptive parents and teens with information about services within the child welfare system, that includes the Adoption Information Registry, the Dept. of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities.
- **Parent Advocacy Services**  
Provides training and technical assistance to support adoptive parents associations, conduct workshops and train adoptive parent advocate groups.

### **CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES for ADOPTED CHILDREN:**

- **Post Adoption Services Consortium**  
Consists of a consortium of professionals who work with adoptive families, including adult adoptees. The panel explores core issues facing adoptive parents, and parents in general, on areas of child development, health and education.

- **Local Community & National Resources**  
Adoptive families are provided with information to websites, newsletters, and adoption organizations that offer information on available resources and services on adoption throughout the country.

### **FAMILY PRESERVATION & CRISIS INTERVENTION:**

- **Family Preservation Services**  
Services to the family include therapeutic and support group services and neighborhood-based referrals. This service is usually provided as an adjunct to or in some combination with the services offered by the Crisis Intervention Program.
- **Crisis Intervention Services**  
Home-based, short term intensive crisis intervention services with a maximum of 12 weeks of service to families in crisis. The length of services may be modified to suit the needs of each family situation. This service is provided when the adoption is at risk of dissolution.

## **Will services be available for me and my family when we need it?**

At some point, adoptive families may need counseling assistance in managing the emotional transitions of adolescence, coping with new and/or pre-existing behaviors, financial crisis, divorce, separations, and/or managing extended family relationships. Upon request, our agency staff is available to assist you every step of the way.

## **If I am having difficulties with my child, must I wait until after the adoption is finalized before receiving services?**

Post-Adoption services are offered to prospective adoptive and adoptive parents who are in need, and/or are experiencing family crisis especially in parenting children designated as "special needs" or "hard to place." Services are offered upon request or when deemed appropriate in pre-adoptive situations where certain needs or problems are anticipated prior to the adoption finalization.